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SUBJECT: KHMER ROUGE TRIALS EXPERT BEGINS WORK

¶1. USUN Legal Adviser met on April 9 with David Tolbert (US), newly appointed UN Assistant Secretary-General and Expert on United Nations Assistance to the Khmer Rouge Trials (UNAKRT), his assistant Michael Pan (U.S.) and Giovanni Basra (Italy) an attorney assigned to the Tribunal in Cambodia. Tolbert, formerly Deputy Prosecutor for the UN's Yugoslav War Crimes Tribunal ICTY, recently arrived in New York to fill this new position.

¶2. Tolbert said that he will travel to Phnom Penh on April 28 and spend one or two weeks there assessing the situation in order to be able to project the "real needs" of the court. He said that it is essential for budgetary purposes to have a trial schedule in order to determine the estimated duration of the Tribunal. Tolbert noted that an accurate budget would be required so that donors could have reliable information and the UN can project the court's future requirements. Tolbert plans to focus on improving the transparency and clarity of court operations.

¶3. USUN told Tolbert that Embassy Phnom Penh follows the activities of the Tribunal closely and encouraged him to contact the Embassy during his visit. Tolbert said that he would and mentioned that he will be meeting with the Embassy's Deputy Chief of Mission in Washington before leaving for Cambodia.

Khalilzad